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Minutes 10/20/2008

Arlington Cultural Council-Meeting Minutes
October 20, 2008
Robbins Library
Arlington, MA

Present: Anyahlee Canas (arrived after the Town Day mural discussion), Stephanie Marlin-Curiel, Suzanne McLoed, David Fechtor, Tom Formicola, Michele Meagher (left after grant application discussion), Sharon Shaloo.
Absent: Karen Dillon and Susan Murie

Tom Formicola called the meeting to order at 7:10

Item 1: Acknowledgement of ACC funding

There was a brief conversation regarding the importance of reminding grantees to acknowledge ACC/MCC funding on all of their publicity material.

Item 2: Grant Applications and Presentation meetings

26 Applications were received. 1-18 were distributed to council members. 19-25, however, were incomplete and therefore will not be reviewed.

Jean will still enter the names of all applicants, listed on the cover page of our packets, into our database.

We noted that there are a few applicants who send blanket applications to all the surrounding LCC's year after year and their applications are likewise incomplete year after year.

Tom sent reminders to the applicants regarding the presentation meetings next Tuesday and Thursday.

Tom will make an announcement or hand out something regarding the delay of confirmation of the awards because of the potential for cutbacks in MCC funding. Tom adds that his deadline to report our decisions to the MCC is still January 15. We will distribute preliminary award letters with a note that a final award amount will be determined after we hear from the MCC. It was commented that we might need to reduce awards, but our decisions on awards will stand. Tom will have a conversation with the MCC about how best to word the award letter.

Stephanie said she would not be able to attend Tuesday's presentation meeting.

Although this year's meetings are at the Community Safety Building set up tables in a U-like configuration as we did at the Library last year and will again plan to have a sign-up sheet so that we see applicants in order of appearance.

Michele volunteered to make name tags.

Tom reminded us to come prepared to the deliberation meeting on Sunday, November 2.

Item 3: September Minutes

Sharon moves not to approve the September minutes as they were not written in the summary fashion consistent with minutes previously submitted. The minutes will be edited and resubmitted for approval at the December meeting.

Item 4: RFP's

- 1) ACA 2007-01, Arlington "My Take" exhibit \$2,000 requested. 1,000 people attended Jean moves to approve, David seconds
- 2) Robbins Library 2008-15, "Developing Your Eye" Teen Photo and Writing Workshop \$600 requested Jean moves to approve, Suzanne seconds
- 3) Ruth Harcovitz has contacted us to let us know she is having a hard time getting a date to do her performance at the Senior Center. Her liaison needs to remind her that she must try to get a performance date that falls before the end of December.

Item 5: Town Day and Mural Debrief

All agreed the town day booth, particularly our "Paint the Town" mural activity was a great success, but there were some things to think about were we to do a similar project again:

- 1) the mural activity was perhaps too tucked away
- 2) the configuration of one long table could perhaps be changed to more of a café style of people working in groups of four on separate panels at separate tables where they could each stand at a separate side.
- 3) There were at times too many people and some had to be turned away. We estimate around 80% of the people who wanted to paint got the chance.
- 4) Because of the numbers, the mural leaders could not always manage to give out the "I painted the town" stickers we had and maybe the booth people (rather than the mural table) could have handled that part if the flow had been managed to follow that direction.

Jean suggested we come up with a plan for the display of the mural. Anyah has the contact info for all the participants. Tom suggested that the display could help us build our audience for the spring reception.

Item 6: Spring Reception

Sharon proposed that we do the reception in the winter shortly after the announcement of the awards. It should take place at 6pm at Town Hall on a Monday when a Selectman's meeting is scheduled. The Town Day mural would be displayed there. After the announcements of the awardees and brief speeches, the Selectman would proceed up to their meeting while the rest of us would stay to socialize. This event would precede the Arts Summit, a separate event.

Tom notes that the earliest we can confirm awards will be February because we will be awaiting notice of the potential cutbacks in the MCC budget. It was further pointed out that since we could not publicize the reception until February 2, that the earliest we could have the reception would be March 2.

Sharon added that it seemed like a long time to wait to display the mural. We discussed the possibility of putting it on our website, but given Stephanie's conversation with the Town webmaster, that seemed unlikely. It was suggested that ask the Advocate to run one panel weekly in the paper as a teaser. Sharon will talk to the Advocate about this.

It was suggested we could in addition make a separate of the mural display on Patriot's Day perhaps as part of the parade.

Item 7: Report on Presentation meetings

There was a very brief discussion of the presentation meetings. Of note was a woman who wanted funding for the Community Youth Orchestra. She was not planning a concert in Arlington although some of her members were from Arlington. We suggested she go to the LCC's of the towns she was planning to perform in this year but noted that we should encourage her to arrange a concert schedule that included Arlington next year and to apply for a grant from us.

Item 8: National Heritage Museum LCC Reception

Jean and Sharon attended. They had a pre-meeting and could go in to see the folk art exhibit. That had a good raffle, but the door prizes primarily came from Lexington businesses that could not really be used by those who had traveled from LCC's across the state, of which there were only a few. It was not well attended, approximately 40 people.

Item 9: Arlington Arts Festival

Tom reported that John Budzyna from the ACA had met with his board and they had similar concerns and questions as our council. The ACA is not ready to commit resources. There is no compulsion to resolve this in the immediate short term. Tom let John know that we would be happy to send a couple of Council members to meet with his board. Sharon suggested that it might not be the best time to discuss an expensive project such as an arts festival until the dust settles from all the potential cutbacks

Sharon also suggested MassPoetry.org as a potential model. They got seed money and sponsored a 2 – 2.5 day festival in Lowell using all donated space.

Stephanie mentioned that she checked out the Minuteman Bikeway celebration and it was not a good model to follow. It consisted of speeches and refreshments at various locations along the bike path at different times of the day. Not a draw for families or anyone but bike path enthusiasts.

Tom suggested we all keep an eye out for good and bad models.

Jean, Sharon and Tom attended the Vision 20/20 meeting and it didn't sound like they had any money to commit to a festival.

Sharon suggested we have a meeting of cultural organizations in Arlington as a separate event from the Artist's Summit. The cultural organization meeting would convene administrators of Arts organizations, rather than individual artists.

Suzanne suggested that we could set it against a backdrop of the times we are in as a meeting of urgency and relevance.

Anyah mentioned that Anne Ellinger (of Arlington's True Story theatre) organized an event at Cloud Place that convened leaders in the arts to give talks and that she might be a good resource for helping us to create such an event.

Item 10: Bus Depot Mural Dedication

Tova Speter has scheduled a dedication of the Bus Depot mural for the morning of Halloween. Someone from the Town will speak, as well as some of the participants from Dearborn Academy. Sharon will also plan to say a few words about how happy we were to have had the opportunity to sponsor this project, a wonderful example of how the arts can build community.

Item 11: December and January Meetings

December meeting will be devoted to a discussion of:

- 1) The Artist's Summit
- 2) Meeting of Cultural Organizations
- 3) Reception at Town Hall

It was suggested they could be marketed as a series.

January meeting will include a discussion of website possibilities.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:42 pm

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Marlin-Curiel